



ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

August 18, 2006

Hello Friends:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

This week, I joined a **bi-partisan coalition of state legislators, public safety advocates, and law enforcement officials**, as **James E. Tilton, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation**, unveiled **Governor Schwarzenegger's** legislative package aimed at reforming the state's prison system.

I applaud **Governor Schwarzenegger** for having the courage and the resolve to put forth such a bold and sweeping package of reform proposals to alleviate the burdens our prisons are facing. We cannot let our prisons fall further down this slippery slope, or else we risk compromising the safety of California's citizens.

In June, **Governor Schwarzenegger called for a special session of the state legislature to address the problems facing California's prison system** and to consider his proposals for reform. These proposals include:

- **AB 1 (Assemblywoman Sally Lieber):** This bill would authorize the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to contract for 4,500 female beds to provide treatment and housing for non-serious/non-violent female offenders.
- **AB 2 (Assemblyman Todd Spitzer) and SB 3 (Senator Jim Battin):** These bills would authorize the CDCR to construct additional prison capacity at existing prisons within the State. It would also allow the CDCR to house male inmates at the Northern California Women's Facility in Stockton.
- **AB 4 (Assemblywoman Nicole Parra) and SB 1 (Senator George Runner):** These legislative proposals would allow the CDCR to construct up to 5,000 reentry beds throughout the State.
- **AB 5 (Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez) and SB 2 (Senator George Runner):** These measures would allow the CDCR to site and operate a training facility in Southern California. It also would allow the CDCR to use the Fred C. Nelles facility in Whittier to either house inmates or to train staff, and would further authorize the CDCR to conduct its own in-house psychological screening of peace officer candidates.
- **AB 6 (Assemblyman John Benoit) and SB 4 (Senator Bob Dutton):** These legislative measures would allow the CDCR to use the design-build construction method for building existing or new prisons throughout the state.

As follow-up to the discussions I have been having regarding prison reform, **I will be hosting an**

informational town hall on the Governor's proposed legislative package to reform our prison system.

The town hall will run from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will take place at the Delano School Board Chambers on 1405 12th Avenue in Delano. James E. Tilton, the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Ron Ramsey, President of the Association of California Cities Allied with Prisons, will also participate in what promises to be a very enlightening discussion on these prison reforms.

NOW TO THE REST OF MY WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

I had the opportunity, this week, to sit down with **Mike Jimenez**, from the **California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA)**, and **Nina Solarno**, from **Crime Victims United of California (CVUC)**, to have a conversation with them about the Governor's prison reform package. Throughout the debate over prison reform it is going to be important for all those involved to really keep an open ear to the thoughts and concerns of interested parties. I plan to continue holding meetings with organizations like the **CCPOA** and the **CVUC** in order to keep all the parties involved in the loop.

I encourage you to read more about the work of the **CCPOA** and the **CVUC** by viewing their web sites www.ccpoanet.org/ and www.crimevictimsunited.com/, respectively.

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I would also like to thank the **California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** for inviting me to participate in their legislative day in Sacramento. Let me also thank my close friends from the Chamber, **Joe Partida** and **Roy Perez**, who have been great partners of mine in the Assembly, as I have worked to serve my constituents in the 30th Assembly District and the people of California. The **Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** has grown into a very influential and positive outlet of advocacy for Hispanic business owners. Its work on behalf of these business owners has not gone unnoticed, as the ranks of their members have swelled to 425,000 Hispanic-owned businesses in California. Furthermore, its vast network of Hispanic chamber and business associations has placed the Chamber at the forefront of Hispanic business associations across the country. Just as in years past, this event was a big draw in Sacramento. The Chamber works tirelessly on behalf of these Hispanic-owned businesses, fostering a powerful sense of unity and expressing even greater desire to continue achieving success.

If you would like to find out more about the Chamber, please visit its web site at <http://www.cahcc.com/>

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Also this week, I was pleased to be honored by the **California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA)** as their **Legislator of the Year**. **CIPA** is a non-profit, non-partisan trade association representing approximately 450 independent crude oil and natural gas producers, royalty owners, and service and supply companies operating in California. The association represents the diverse interests of its membership before the California State Legislature, the United States Congress and numerous federal, state and local regulatory agencies. The association is an advocate of free market principles, eliminating duplicative regulation, stimulating recovery of domestic resources and improving the industry's public image.

To learn more about **CIPA**, please take a look at their web site www.cipa.org/

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Later in the week, **I hosted another installment of my agriculture conference call, with my agricultural advisory group**. I provided them with an update on legislative and budget issues. We discussed a lot of the major agricultural issues facing the Valley, including livestock and crop losses as a result of the extreme heat we have been experiencing. This was a very helpful call, because it allowed us to isolate some problems and issues that we can come together on and correct.

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On Saturday, I will also be participating in a **women's rally in Fresno**. In 2004, 22 million single

women voters failed to vote in a presidential election with the potential to greatly impact their lives. Women in the Valley face extraordinary challenges everyday to put a roof over their heads, food on the table, and gas in their cars if they are lucky enough to have a car. When women understand they have the power to bring about change, to elect people who will work on issues they care about like: jobs, living wage, health care, reproductive justice & education.

In today's society, there are numerous issues which affect women specifically, and yet at times those very same women who are impacted by the decisions of our State and Nation's leadership are not engaged in the process.

It is critical that women not only in our region, but women worldwide actively participate in the process that those before them have put into place. Without the voice of women, decisions will be made that may adversely affect not only females, but our children, families, and more broadly, our society.

This promises to be an amazing event, and **it will take place at the Free Speech Area in the Fulton Mall, in downtown Fresno.**

HELPFUL LINKS

Operation Hero Miles

<http://www.heromiles.org/>

Care Packages for Soldiers

<http://anysoldier.com/>

County Information:

Fresno

<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/portal/>

Kings

<http://www.countyofkings.com/>

Kern

<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/>

Tulare

<http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/>

City Information:

Coalinga

www.coalinga.com

Kingsburg

www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov/

Corcoran

<http://www.cityofcorcoran.com/>

Lemoore

<http://www.lemoore.com/>

Bakersfield

<http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/>

McFarland

<http://www.mcfarlandcity.org/>

Wasco

<http://www.ci.wasco.ca.us/>

Huron

www.fresnocog.org/city1/city_of_huron.htm

Avenal

<http://www.avenalcalifornia.com/>

Hanford

<http://www.ci.hanford.ca.us/>

Arvin

<http://www.arvin.org/>

Delano

<http://www.delano-ca.org/default.htm>

Shafter

<http://www.shafter.com/>

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.Kerncountylibrary.org> from your computer any time between 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

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Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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